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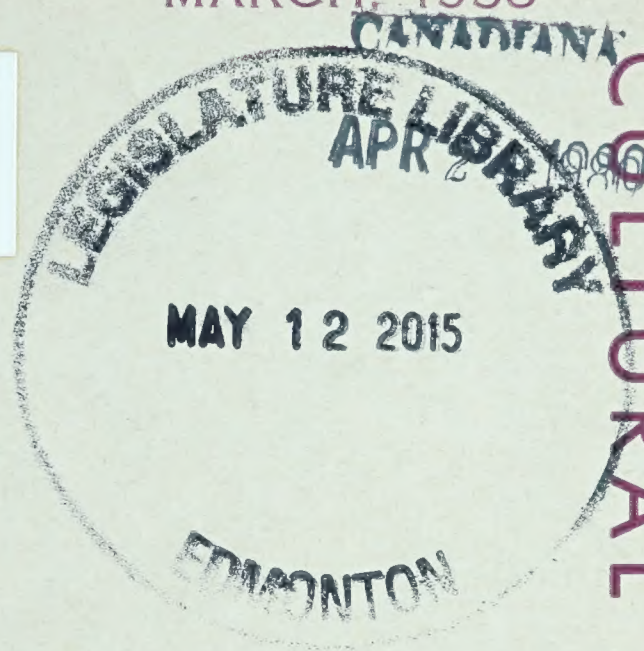
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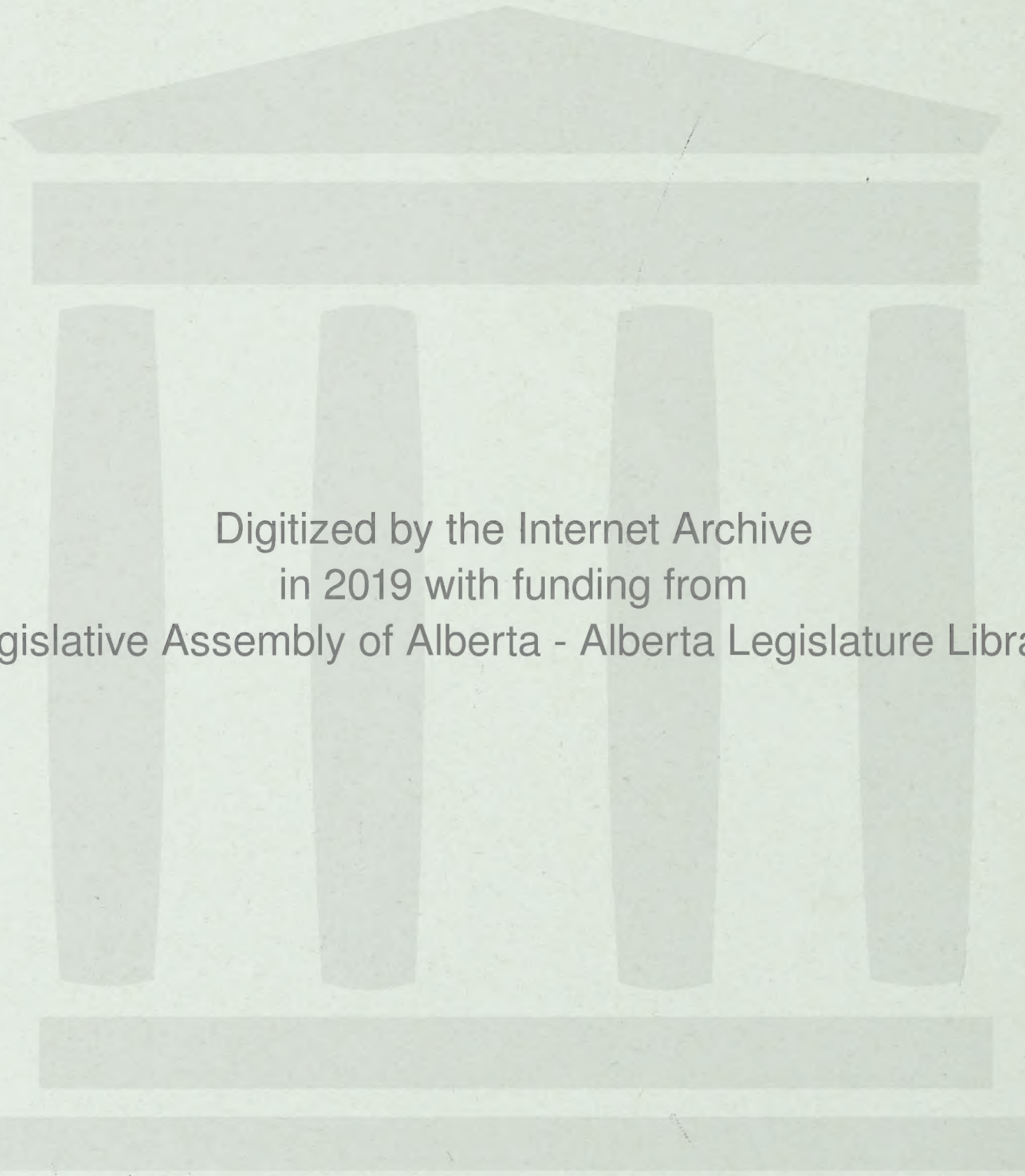
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES MAGAZINE

Recreation



1897-1898

1897-1898



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Vol. 9, No. 1, March, 1958

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Arts and Crafts:

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Libraries.....E. J. Holmgren

Community Recreation:

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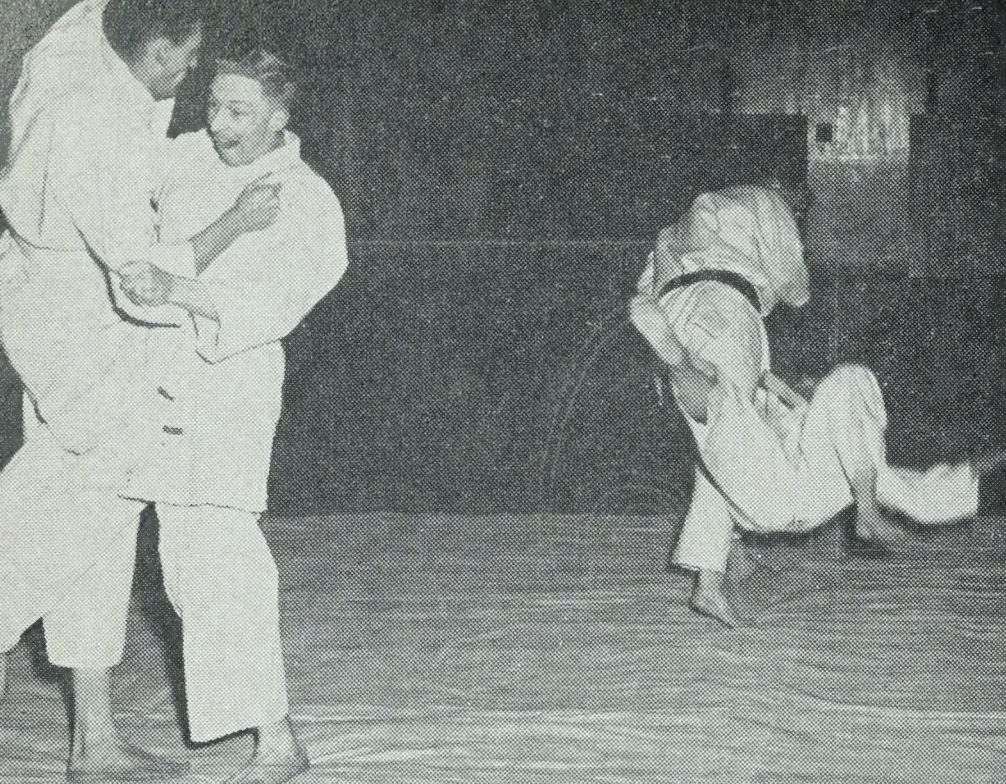
And Other Features

THAT SPRING FEELING

If last winter's snows have not
vanished by the time this issue of
Leisure appears they cannot stay
much longer. But there doesn't seem
to be much seasonal recreation any
more. Photographers turn from table-
tops to scenics, skaters from ice to
rollers, artists leave the studio and
take to the hills. Libraries have to
meet a rising demand for "holiday
reading." And this is all to the good.

So whatever are the tools of our
craft—brushes or chisels, looms or
potter's wheels—we shan't be putting
them away in our attics until next
winter.

Published four times a year by the Cultural Activ-
ities Branch of the Department of Economic Affairs,
Government of Alberta, Room 424, Legislative Build-
ing, Edmonton, Alberta.



Judo is fine exercise, good fun and a useful art for fighting men to know.

Showing that all's not work in the Air Force—recreation is systematically provided for.

Leisure Hours With the RCAF at Namao Station

By F/O Peter B. Nelson

THE PRIMARY object of the recreation program at Namao is to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for the varied interests of our personnel and dependents. This, in a way, is a rather selfish viewpoint for it has been well established that anything which contributes to the shaping of a better all round personality contributes also to the making of a more efficient worker for the RCAF.

The purpose of the small recreation section is not to provide recreation, but rather to assist serving personnel and dependents in developing for themselves those forms of recreational activities which will enable them to live fuller and richer "off-duty" lives

The author of this article is recreation officer at RCAF station Namao, and first (1956) of the Community Recreation division's scholarship winners.

of their own making. It is an unfailing rule that the activities developed by station personnel for station personnel involving the maximum use of volunteer leaders are the only activities which survive and prosper. Here is a brief summary of the programme:

Curling Is Popular

A varied program of sports takes place both during and after working hours which enables every person to enjoy at least two forms of sport in the company of others at a common skill level. One of the most popular activities seems to be curling—so much so, in fact, that there is only one day that the four-sheet rink (which incidentally was constructed by volunteer labour) is open for special events and practice. The curling club includes four divisions: Men's, ladies', mixed and high school.

Family life is not neglected at Namao — wives get in on the recreation program too.

The bowling league is a close contender with men's, mixed, and high school leagues in operation. Weekly prizes are awarded for individual high scores and there is a trophy for the best team in the league.

A number of individual sports are available including basketball, volleyball, badminton, hockey, fastball, flag football, cricket, and judo. A room has recently been set aside for the setting up of a permanent mat, and it is planned to set up the wall bars, punching bags, and weight lifting equipment in the same area. Little league baseball, as well as midget and juvenile hockey are provided for dependent children with coaching provided by interested parents. Swimming is also available for Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, and Guides.

A lively and diversified year round social recreation programme which includes opportunities to enjoy well organized parties, dances, bingos and the like is facilitated by the entertainment committee of each mess or club. In addition to this, many of the clubs such as the badminton club are formed on a mixed basis providing social atmosphere.

Arts and Crafts

Although the craft programme at present consists mainly of woodworking, a recent addition to the hobby shop will provide space for other crafts as well as a dark room for photo enthusiasts. Instruction will be pro-



vided by volunteer instructors trained by the Cultural Activities Branch of the Department of Economic Affairs.

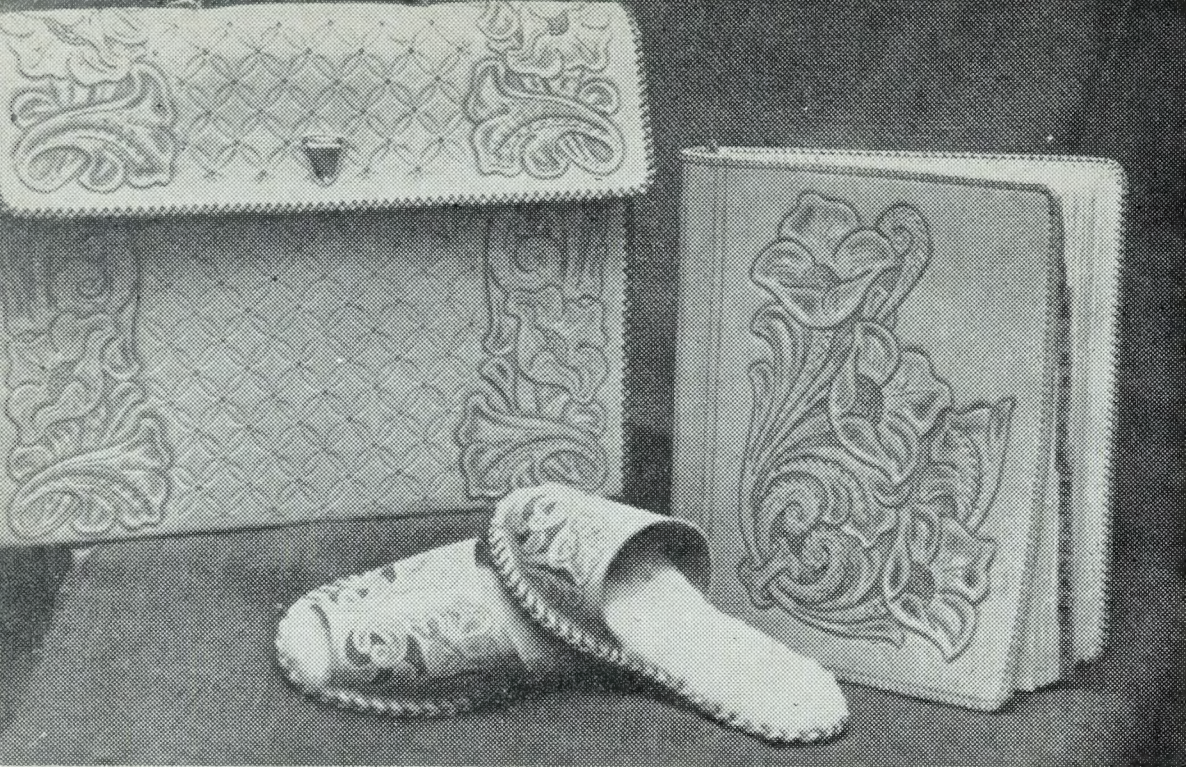
A station voluntary military band and a station dance orchestra are available for the music-minded, while the two chapel choirs provide opportunity for vocal exercise. Classes in ballet are available for interested children.

Recreation, to be successful must be voluntary, and the formation of various clubs and councils for the above activities provides a much needed opportunity to practice democracy in a military environment.

Teen Age Recreation

Recreation for teenagers is mainly under the control of the Community Council. The teens' Junior Town Council and a student government plan their social events while for physical activity, they engage in curling, bowl-

(Continued on Page 19)



Shown here are some examples of leathercraft designed and executed by one of the author's pupils—Roberta Welsh, Edmonton. On the left, a tooled leather briefcase; centre, a pair of slippers; right, binder designed to hold a telephone directory.

—Alberta Government Photo.

**The Stuff We Sole Our
Shoes With Was Once
Prized Equally With Fine
Gold.**

Leather in Handicrafts, Today and Yesteryear

By Phyllis M. Ponech

THAT OLD gag about being awarded the leather medal wouldn't have seemed a bit funny to the ancient Egyptians, for we learn from their carved stone tablets that five thousand years ago leather was prized equally with gold, ivory and fine jewels. It was also considered a worthwhile tribute to their kings and gods. Perfectly preserved leather



Mrs. Ponech

articles have been found in Egyptian tombs known to be over three thousand years old.

There are numerous references to leather in the Bible and the legends and tales of ancient

Greece and Rome abound in them. At one time in Roman history leather was used as the monetary "standard"; from the Latin word "pecus," meaning "hide" we get the familiar English word "pecuniary." The Biblical scrolls found in the caves of Qumran on the Dead Sea in 1947 were written on leather.

Indian Buckskin

When the white man came to the Americas, he found the Indian a great user of leather, for clothing, housing, and general use; and to this day their type of "buckskin" has never been equalled for its softness and ability to turn water.

Thousands of years ago the Hebrews had been first to develop the method of tanning leather by using oak bark.

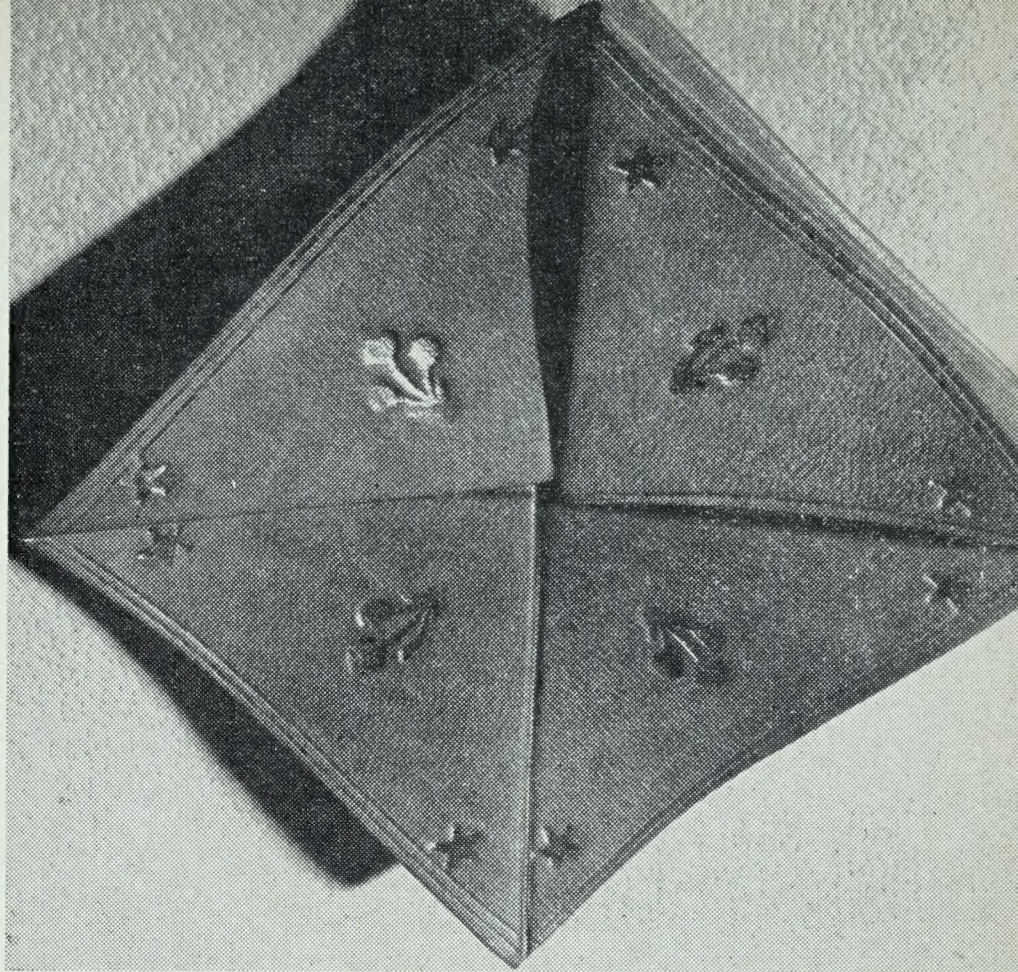
Illustration on the right shows a leather pouch, work of a pupil at an Alberta Government craft centre.

No notable changes in this method were made until the latter part of the eighteenth century. Then people learned that hemlock and chestnut barks, as well as various plant substances, were suitable. Near the end of the nineteenth century, an American chemist discovered that chromium salts acting upon hides produced leather different from that produced by the bark tanning method. Thus our modern method of chrome tanning developed. Today most leather is produced either by chrome or vegetable tanning, depending upon the use which will be made of it. However, there are numerous other methods. For shoe uppers, gloves and garments, chrome-tanned leather is generally used. Harness, luggage, shoe soles, upholstery and craft items are generally made from vegetable-tanned leather. If tooling or carving is to be done in craft work, the leather *must* be vegetable-tanned, since chrome-tanned leather will not tool.

Today in the field of handicrafts, leather is used in numerous ways, and is without doubt the most widely used craft in occupational therapy. Thousands of returned men have found their way back to reality by way of leathercraft, and to so many of them a means of livelihood, which gives to one the sense of wellbeing.

Methods of Treatment

Leather can be treated in several ways for craft work. The surface can be left plain, it can be tooled or



carved. In tooling, the surface is dampened, a pattern put on, and this pattern worked out from the "wrong" side in much the same way as copper tooling, and finished off by padding the hollow created in the back with wadding, cementing over a piece of lining leather and then proceeding with the construction. In carving, the leather is again dampened, the pattern is carved into the top surface of the leather with a carving knife and tools known as saddle stamps are used on the moist surface to bring up the design. After this stamping is finished, the leather project is completed. There is nothing to gladden the heart of a carver like a beautiful piece of well carved leather.

There are several methods of finishing off the backgrounds on projects. There is the dyeing method, which darkens the background and lets the design stand out in bold relief. There is also the antique method of finishing, whereby the whole surface is darkened to whatever degree of darkness the individual wants. This is ac-

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Thoughts About a Regional Festival

By Jack McCreath

The 22nd Regional Drama Festival, held in Calgary at the Jubilee Auditorium March 12th to 15th is now history. Herewith a few personal observations penned to meet a hasty deadline.

I felt the general standard of production was lower than in the past two years and five entries contained too many dull moments with moments of good theatre all too rare. I felt that these good moments were concentrated in two productions—scenes between the two brothers and the father in "All Summer Long," and the first act of "Arms and the Man" when it almost looked as though a spectacular full-stage set might even work for this play. However, not again throughout the evening was the stage used to such excellent advantage.

I saw no new outstanding talent in any of the productions, but I liked the sincere work of Russell Fairhurst, Sandy McCallum and David Mannington in "All Summer Long," June Ferguson's competent performance in "Angel Street," Violet Powlan's theatrically effective and utterly winning Raina in "Arms and the Man" and Joseph Rutten's quite delightful "Joseph" in "My Three Angels." Finally, although she was definitely miscast in "Arms and the Man" as "Mrs. Petkoff" no review of the festival can pass without mention of the grace and loveliness which Doreen Richardson brought to the wrong role.

Social Aspect

Each time I briefly recall these festivals in print, I find that I must comment on the brilliant social aspect of these occasions. But this in itself is a kind of criticism.

I enjoy a good party as much as the next person, but are the highlights of these festivals to be merely the occasions for generous hospitality and gay chit chat? How much did any of the groups participating at this festival or at last year's Dominion, learn from their participation?

These are questions which I feel need answering because, quite honestly, despite the wonderful co-operation of local groups, the loyal support which the smaller groups give to their entries, and the fine work people like Elodia Christensen are doing, I cannot help feeling that the festivals as they presently exist are in for trouble.

Are the adjudicators good enough? Are they making the kind of contribution that is needed? Would not one or two first-rate lectures or a day or two of theatre conference be of more use to these groups participating? And why did at least three of the leading groups of the Province ignore this festival entirely?

As I understand the meaning of a drama festival, it should be an occasion when the finest productions in the Province are to be seen, when theatre

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The pieces shown here have been chosen to illustrate Design, which is the subject of this article. The backdrop curtain is a magnificent piece of work in batik. The figurine is a wood carving standing on an inlaid tabletop. The other pieces shown are ceramics of varied types.

—Alberta Govt. photo.

Design is inherent in craftsmanship, containing as much of the craftsman himself as his signature does.

Design in Crafts

By Sophie Sembaliuk

EVERYONE was born an individual. Each has his own colouring, build, temperament, gait, voice, capacities, and limitations, opinions and ways of expressing them. When speaking, people differ in the way they pronounce words, even though they may have had the same teacher and contacts. In the same way, the handwriting differs with each individual.

A style in design can, and should be, just as characteristic of an individual as his handwriting. Just as it is false to copy someone's handwriting, so is copying a design a false representation. A person cannot honestly say that he has done a piece of work if he has merely copied what someone else has done.

Exhibitions are full of the same purses, pictures, pots and woven pieces, exhibited year after year by different craftsmen. What is being exhibited in such articles is nothing but craftsmanship. Surely there should be more to an exhibition piece than neatness and correct technique. Craftsmanship is rated a maximum of 30% by a jury in a craft show. What about the other 70%? It is given to

design—not just applied design but design in relation to function, material, colour and textures as well. Each exhibited piece should have something of its maker's own creativeness added. Unless there is something special contributed to an article, there is no reason to exhibit.

Function In Design

Constructional design is dependent upon function, which also determines the materials used, the placing of them, size, shape, weight, strength, and to a certain extent applied design. The form of an object should be suitable to the function. It should be comfort-



Sophie Sembaliuk

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A promising pupil (to visitors' browse in the two floors of art galleries at the Coste House.

—Photos by Gar Lunney

From small beginnings Allied Art Centre now provides inspiration for many all over North America.

Coste House Sets the Pace

By A. F. Key

CALGARY'S COSTE HOUSE is four institutions in one, which gives it some sort of distinction as the first such on the North American continent, and one used as a pattern in many communities in Canada and the United States.

As headquarters and co-ordinating centre for forty-two cultural and com-

munity organizations, Coste House plays an important role as an Arts Council. The Arts Council services, in addition to co-ordination, include such services as co-operative box office, the monthly "Courier" sponsorships and assistance to cultural groups. It also seeks to bring together all cultural societies to discuss

A promising pupil (to judge by the shape of the pot) gets instruction in ceramics.



A Coste House art student goes to work on a still life piece.

common needs and to work together on common projects. In this manner, the Arts Council takes on political significance inasmuch as it frequently speaks on behalf of all its societies in community matters.

Coste House also serves as a civic art gallery open free to the public for a minimum of thirty-six hours weekly. A constant flow of travelling exhibitions are hung on two of the five floors which houses all the Coste House activities and throughout the daytime hours, visitors can browse and see fine art and other exhibitions from all corners of the globe. Usually not less than two exhibitions are hanging at the same time. In this field of fine art, Coste House has acquired, over the eleven years of its existence, a collection of over one hundred and fifty works of art which it views as the permanent collection of the City of Calgary.

In recent months, and using a portion of the Canada Council grant, Coste House has been preparing, and making available to rural communities, small exhibitions of paintings, drawings and reproductions. At the time of going to press six such exhibitions are on tour and a further six in preparation. Cost to the local organization covers express charges one way only. This service, incidentally, is a joint effort with the Cultural Activities branch of the Province sharing costs and assisting in the planning.



Varied Activities

As a cultural recreation centre, Coste House keeps its doors open ninety hours weekly through the winter months, going on slightly restricted hours for July and August only. Each evening the various rooms are given over to informal activities of the membership in addition to providing accommodation for the activities of member societies, some of these overflowing into the daytime hours. It is not unusual to see—or hear—a theatre group in rehearsal, record listening or vocal workshop group in action, a writers' workshop, camera club, and a painting group each occupied in its own project. Other groups include Spanish conversation. Shakespeare study, art appreciation, re-

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Art which originated at Louis XIV's court now enjoys world-wide popularity.

Ballet is a Part of Life at the Alberta University

By Helen Tkachenko

PERCY Aldridge Grainger's "Country Gardens" ballet was the vehicle chosen by the University Ballet Club at Edmonton for the winding up of their season of classes. This is an English countryside flower ballet, and was presented with the annual University Variety Show in the Jubilee Auditorium on February 27 and 28 and March 1.

Other activities in which this club participated during the past year included the showing of films on ballet, performing for the Frosh students at

their concert during Frosh Introduction Week and assisting the Civic Opera Company with ushering during their presentation of "A Song of Norway." Instructional classes in ballet were given once every week in the Athabasca gym.

Still to look forward to is a talk on ballet which will be presented by Miss Celia Franca, artistic director of the National Ballet Company of Canada, during their appearances in Edmonton. The talk will be held in the Wauneita Lounge of the Students' Union Building in the afternoon of May 8 and is open to dancers as well as any interested members of the dancing profession.

As director of the University Ballet Club for the past two years, I have been dealing with a group of girls mostly between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Some of the members have had ballet training before but most of them have had little or none at all. The keen interest these girls have



Helen Tkachenko (left), author of the accompanying article, is director of the University Ballet Club at Edmonton. Miss Tkachenko studied ballet for seven years under Edith Heavener and at the Banff School of Fine Arts. She has been active in the Arts Ballet Company and the Edmonton Civic Opera.

A grouping from the Country Garden ballet, choreography by Helen Tkachenko. Left to right, Judy Schuler, Rosalie Kelly, Lis Paradis.



shown in ballet, however, has enabled them to accomplish a great deal even in the relatively short period of the university term.

It is indeed inspiring and encouraging to watch their progress. The accomplishments of the girls who have started working out in toe shoes really gives our club members something to look forward to in years to come. They have done remarkably well in so short a period.

Although the purpose of the club is both recreational and educational, many of the members attend mainly because of the enjoyment they derive from dancing and not with the idea of becoming professional dancers.

French Origin

Although peoples of the different nations have danced from time im-

memorial, ballet as we know it today originated during the period of Louis XIV when he and members of his court produced dramatic ballets for his audiences. This is why all the technical terms of ballet are in the French language. Since this period ballet developed largely in Russia and in England and is now spreading even to remote parts of the world.

This is not surprising considering ballet training is one of the finest means of securing graceful body movement and carriage. It also develops a feeling for the rhythm and emotional content of music as well as being one of the best all round exercises, employing all the muscles of the body.

A regular class may consist of a variety of exercises done either at



Grace of carriage and suppleness of every muscle are developed by the art of ballet. Here is a group of Miss Tkachenko's pupils exercising at the bar.



Ballet in rehearsal. Left to right, Helen Tkachenko, Mary Krpan, Rosalie Kelly, Carmel Despins.

the bar or in the centre of the gym. These serve to limber up the body muscles as well as strengthen and shape the limbs of the dancer. A good "turncut" of the leg from the hip joint as well as an arched instep are two important features that a dancer strives for.

The "bar" exercises are followed by more intricate dance movements and combinations of dance steps in the centre of the gym. These involve the co-ordination of leg and arm movements as well as the head, shoulders and other parts of the body. Good co-ordination between the different parts of the body is one of the distinguishing qualities of a good ballet dancer.

Toward Perfection

A dancer rarely accomplishes perfect technique, but always strives to achieve perfection. When one fault is overcome there is always another to cope with as well as more difficult movements to attempt and conquer. It is because there is always some higher feat to achieve that this art never becomes dull to those who have undertaken it, but remains forever a challenge to the dancer.

The Ballet Club is sponsored and supported by the Students' Union and classes in ballet are given free of charge to any students attending the university. Encouraging support is

also received from other societies on the campus. The Household Economic Club has been responsible for sewing our costumes last year as well as this, and the Drama Department has also offered many helpful hints for our productions.

The club had been inactive for five years and was only revived in 1956. Mary Krpan, the present club president, believes the interest shown in this club during these past two years will keep it alive and a worthwhile project for future years. It also adds much to the cultural activities on the campus and gives the members of this group a better understanding of the vast amount of training required to accomplish the technique needed to become a ballet star such as Margot Fonteyn.

Members of the executive are: President, Mary Krpan; secretary, Carmel Despins; treasurer, Rosalie Kelly; instructress, Helen Tkachenko.

Pianists for the club are: Pat Toombs, Wayne Tallestrup, Shirley Anderson, Beryl Guntrip.

CERAMIC WIDOWER

*My wife has joined, with zest dynamical,
A club for making things ceramical;
When I come home all tired and tottery
I find my dinner's gone to Pottery.*

—Lord Rosenfield in Wall Street Journal

Books, Russian and Ourselves

By E. J. Holmgren

RECENTLY a noted journalist commented in the pages of the London Observer about the Russians' great love of and hankering after books. He went on to point out that Russians read books anywhere and read everything. One is likely to see a waitress put down a book as one comes into a cafe; a taxi driver puts aside his book to pick up a fare and so on. The writer goes on to point out the significance of this for the West, stressing that the West must therefore hurry to catch up with the Soviet Union.

This points out the fact that the Russians see even more than we do the value of good books; in fact it is probably quite safe to say that this is the case for most of Europe including the British Isles where television is firmly entrenched. To many people books are something that are dead, out of date or just for long haired high brow folk. Such, of course, is not the case at all. Those who have never or rarely opened a good book just do not know what they are missing.

Roads to Knowledge

But this is to digress from our point. No doubt the Russians have a limited choice of reading material and much of it is slanted one way. But the fact remains that they regard books as being highly valuable for the dissemination of knowledge. It is not enough for us to know that Canadians read more books proportionately than



E. J. HOLMGREN, *Provincial Government's Supervisor of Public Libraries.*

do Americans and that those in Britain read more than even Canadians. We have to double our own efforts at reading not merely to catch up with the Russians but to surpass them and to improve our own general opinion of the world. And in spite of television, films, newspapers, books are still the best vehicle for the spread of knowledge.

Naturally the ones who should be encouraged to engross themselves in good books are our younger folk. Too often have we smarted under the criticism that our young folk do not read. To encourage them we must make them aware of the immense wealth of knowledge to be found outside textbooks, both in the public and school libraries.

School Libraries

Up to now, little has been said of school libraries but perhaps a few words about them would not come amiss. The school library with its free reading material should be regarded as a supplement, not a competitor to the public library. Often

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Plans Are Advanced for Albertacraft

A NEW and interesting class in this year's Albertacraft exhibition will be a contest for the best doll fabricated and dressed entirely by the competitors so as to be characteristic of Alberta. More particulars are given in the adjoining column.

Albertacraft '58 is now in the planning stage and, encouraged by the success of previous years and particularly by last year's when it was shown in Calgary for the first time, the exhibition will be held in the Jubilee Auditoriums there and in Edmonton.

The dates: At Edmonton April 14 to 19. At Calgary April 28 to May 3.

Although craft centres will play a large part in Albertacraft '58, it must be emphasized that entries are invited from all craftsmen, regardless of affiliation or of no affiliation. The purpose of the exhibition is to give Alberta craftspeople an opportunity of seeing the best of their fellow-craftsmen's work.

Not only their Alberta fellow-craftsmen's, for, as in former years, there will be a generous display of craftsmanship from other provinces and the United States.

Exhibits will be judged by a panel of three anonymous jurors having no connection either with the Department of Economic Affairs or with the arts or crafts boards.

There will be three divisions:

Handicraft: Ceramics. Weaving. Woodwork (carving, inlay, etc.). Leather (tooled, carved or tinted). Copper tooling. Sculpture. Batik.

Copper enamelling. Jewelry (copper, silver, ceramics or polished stones).

Basic Crafts: Lace. Art pottery. Box loom (belts, place mats and toys). Woodwork (jig-saw, chip carving and whittling). Beadwork (Indian craft). Slippers and gloves.

Children's Crafts: Papercraft. Puppets. Ceramics. Box Loom weaving. Soap carving. Jigsaw craft. Leather. Copper wire.

Conditions of Alberta Doll Contest

Body: Flesh colored cotton fabric.

Head: Cotton, papier mache or molded latex.

Costume: Typical of Alberta, using such emblems as wild rose, wheat, wild life, etc. Material—light weight cotton, soft leather, silk, wool or knitted material.

Points will be awarded on the following bases: Material, 20. Design, 20. Craftsmanship, 15. Suitability, 15. Originality, 30.

A prize of \$25 is offered for the best entry.

The winning doll will become the property of the Alberta government, to be added to Miss Jean Allanch's collection. Entries will be shown at the Albertacraft exhibition and toured with the Maytime travelling exhibition. All except the winning doll will be returned to their owners immediately thereafter.

Entries, with a sealed envelope attached containing the entry form (obtainable at the address below) to be submitted not later than March 17, and addressed to the Cultural Activities Branch, Department of Economic Affairs, Room 424, Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

The author (right) of this article is professor of music at the University of Alberta, and conductor of the celebrated University Mixed Chorus.

Examination Time for Music Students

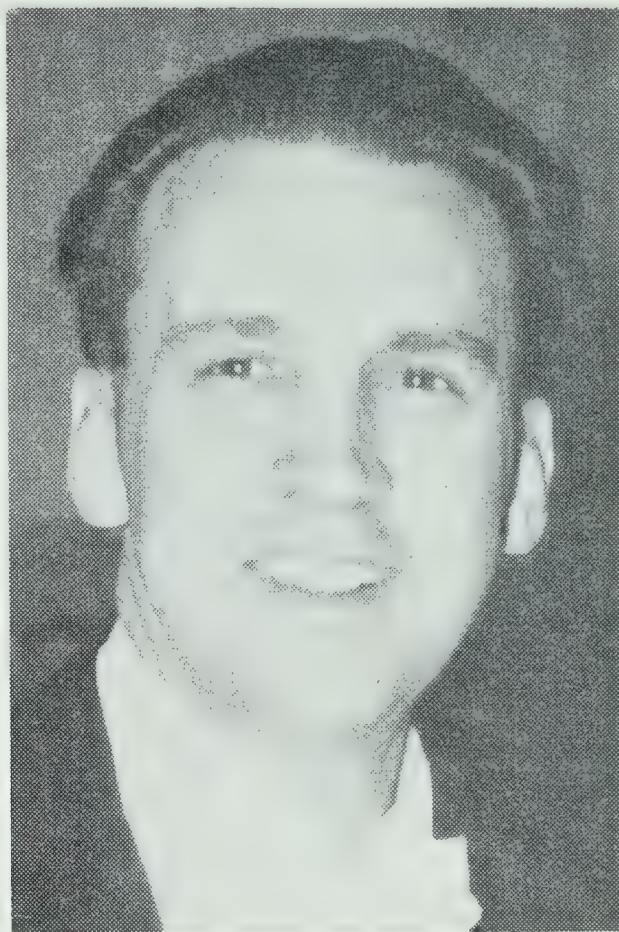
By Richard S. Eaton

WHAT thoughts come to the mind with the words "music exams." Toiling students, teachers and parents striving to meet the standards of a particular examining institution and hoping the examiner is not too severe—at least this year.

This kind of activity has gone on in Canada for many years and contributed towards the development of many highly skilled music teachers and performers as well as creating a public for the appreciation of good music. Canada has been fortunate to have had examining systems for so many years—systems that established and maintained standards of performance and theoretical subjects throughout the whole country.

As the educational institutions of the Prairie Provinces grew in size and influence, it was natural that musical problems should look to these institutions for guidance. Institutions such as the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta felt a responsibility towards all facets of serious musical activities. It was in the spirit of self-realization and self-development that the Western Board of Music was formed in 1935.

This Board consists of the presidents of the universities, deputy ministers of



education and heads of university music departments of the three provinces. Representatives of the Registered Music Teachers' Association are invited to the annual meeting. Through the Board, each university shares in common a music syllabus, piano books and theory papers. There is also a sharing of examiners through which a common standard of examining is maintained.

High Standard

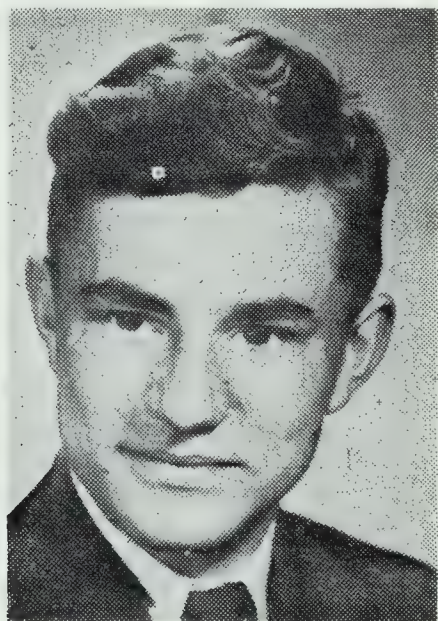
The syllabus contains the best teaching material available. The current syllabus, issued in the fall of 1957, was the result of close co-operation between the universities and leading teachers. The high standard of this syllabus will be reflected in greater musical achievements by those students passing the Western Board examinations.

Examinations in theoretical subjects are held during February and May; practical examinations in February



DOLLYANN THACHUK

Miss Thachuk attended the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland, studying violin and related subjects. She graduated with the Teacher's and Artist's diplomas and later with the degree of Bachelor of Music. Miss Thachuk won the Peabody String Scholarship, open to Western Board students in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.



MARK JABLONSKI

A young man of outstanding pianistic gifts, Mark was a consistent scholarship winner of the Western Board of Music in Alberta during the past few years. He is at present studying piano at the Juilliard School of Music in New York with Mme. Lhevine, one of the world's leading teachers.

and June. All theory papers are returned to the students after being marked and failures are carefully reviewed.

The time allotted to each practical examination is such that there is no rushing of students through the examination; all pieces are heard by the examiner and the candidate is given every chance to show what he can do. A special feature of the final Grade XI Performer and Grade XI Teacher Diploma examination is a board of examiners. On this board will be a specialist in the candidate's instrument, at least one other examiner and more often two. This affords the candidate a fair audition and does not leave the final decision to the opinion of one person.

The University of Alberta engages visiting examiners of outstanding ability and at the same time uses Alberta examiners of proven musicianship and ability.

Scholarships, Prizes

In Alberta the Board offers over \$5,000 in awards each year. Through the generosity of the provincial government, business firms, radio stations, clubs, societies and individuals, this is available to students who have shown outstanding ability in examinations. Through these awards many Alberta students have either continued higher studies in the province or have been assisted in continuing their studies at recognized music institutions in Canada, the United States, England and France.

In the fall of each year recitals of award winners are held in the Peace River, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. An added feature of

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Design in Crafts

(Continued from Page 7)

able and easy to handle. There should be no one part which is overemphasized at the expense of the object as a whole. Craftsmen often add unnecessary ornaments which have no function—just no good reason for being. So, we see slender vases with ornate handles, and decoration on leather that is much overdone. Staying within the limitations of material used is not observed enough. Too often clay

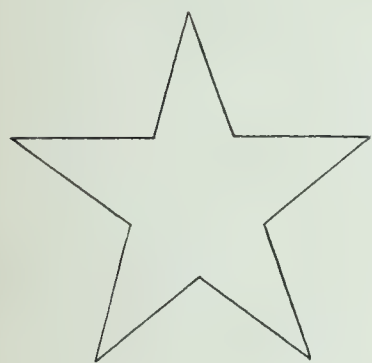


Figure 1

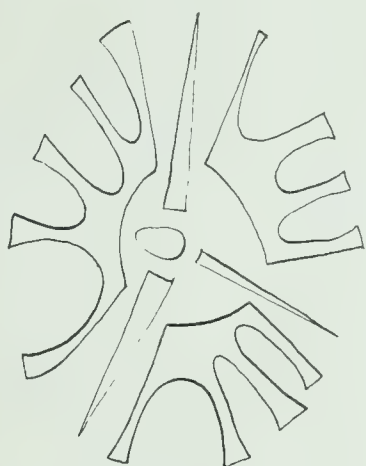


Figure 2

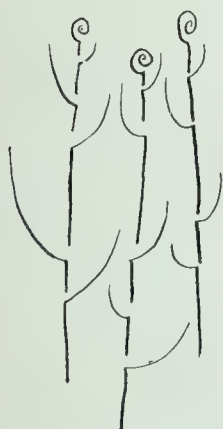


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

is used as though it were as strong as metal. Texture, applied design and colour should be honest and logical in relation to the function of the object and the material used. There should be no falseness about representing some other material or function. An object should not look like something it is not.

Too much attention is usually paid to what to put on an article as applied design, and not enough to where and how to apply it to do the piece most justice. The subject matter is not nearly as important as the right placing, right size and shape and method of application. Symbols are accepted by most people, if they are traditional and familiar but are passed off as "Modern Art," if they are new. Mention a star, for instance, and many would visualize a regular five-point shape. There isn't a star in the sky that is shaped that way. It is only a symbol which represents a star with its reflected light. This being so, one could represent the star with a hundred different shapes or symbols. Figure 1 is as much a star as figure 2. Trees might be figure 3 or figure 4 or figure 5. There is no limit. There are, at the very least, as many ways of designing each object as there are individuals.

People should develop and use these individual potentialities and express themselves in crafts as they would express their own opinions in words. Creativeness in any field makes life much more exciting, enjoyable, satisfying and livable. Anyone who has done something creative will agree, and will show it. It is only those who have not had this experience who may disagree.

Books, Russian and Ourselves

(Continued from Page 13)

a student can gain a love of books from the school library and can regard it as a stepping stone to the public library shelves.

School libraries have come in for some criticism. The Nelson (B.C.) Daily News notes with despair the inadequacies of school library service much of which it puts down to the lack of trained librarians. Certainly this is true but teachers can often do much to help the pupils in this matter. In Alberta school libraries are receiving considerable attention. As one eminent educator put it, the school library and not the gymnasium should be the centre of school life.

In this way, if we lead our children to good books, we will not only catch up to the Russians but will surpass them for let us not forget that we do have the advantage of freedom of thought.

Libraries on Wheels

Much has been written of late in the library literature of those libraries, the bookmobiles. Those of us who live in the larger centres (e.g. Calgary and Edmonton) will have seen them. In effect they bring library service to us where no branch library exists. In some areas they are used in connection with regional libraries and in this regard they do much to bring first class library service to small centres. It is hoped that some will be used in rural areas in Alberta. Or, a book van may be used to bring boxes of books to a branch (as at Lacombe) but the principle is the same; to bring good library service to all. After all,

if people cannot, through distance, come to a library, why not bring the library to them? In many areas of Canada and the United States the arrival of the bookmobile or book van at a hamlet or school, is welcomed.

Primitive Attitude

Yet there are some who see little use for a bookmobile. We read in the Library Association Record (of London, England) of an alderman in the Isle of Ely in Cambridgeshire who regarded a bookmobile as "another nail in the coffin of village life." He felt (as no doubt do many others elsewhere) that existing centres filled a need for the thirst for education. The Record went on to refer to the alderman's "primitive attitude" and that his thirst for education has not been very great. This, only 16 miles from one of the world's great seats of learning!

We can only agree with the Library Association Record but we will add a word or two. There are always some who wish, like the proverbial ostrich, to bury their heads in the sand and decry progress. To them a way of life is being upset, the old order is changing—but then, as Tennyson said, "the old order changeth, yielding place to new . . .". Certainly changes will come in our life as a result of improved library service of which bookmobiles are only one agent, but it is a change for the best, a change for our young people which at once brings us back to our first topic which is that we must learn to love books more than before.

Peter Dwyer, a member of the cabinet secretariat in the Privy Council at Ottawa, has been appointed supervisor of the art program of The Canada Council.

Leisure Hours with RCAF

(Continued from Page 3)

ing, hockey, and skating, and quite a number are members of the badminton club. Further, they are welcome to use the gymnasium or bowling alleys during open time.

Namoo, being a relatively new station, has a modern recreation centre which includes a theatre, gymnasium, bowling alleys, library, coffee shop, and a small shopping centre. The locker areas are so designed as to be available for use as dressing rooms for the swimming pool which is expected in the near future. There is adequate space available for outdoor sports and several well equipped playgrounds are available for children living in married quarters. Indoor curling and skating rinks, a golf driving range (all constructed by voluntary labour), a well used indoor rifle range and a skeet range round out the list of available facilities. Plans are being made for the installation of tennis courts, and the improvement of the playing fields and 440 yard track are also under consideration.

Although much still remains to be done before all the objectives of recreation are attained, we feel that much of a positive nature has been accomplished both in the improvement of facilities and in the education of personnel to the values of recreation. Furthermore, we feel that by the best use of their leisure time, RCAF personnel can assist in developing a still more efficient Air Force.

Examination Time for Music Students

(Continued from Page 16)

these recitals is the appearance of young visiting artists whose expenses are paid by the Board. In this way, young performers of outstanding talent are given the opportunity of adding to their performing experience and the audience is able to hear young Alberta musicians from other places.

Teaching Aids

Teaching aids consist of advice in response to written requests, as well as radio programs heard throughout the winter over CKUA in Edmonton and designed to illustrate the music of the syllabus. These programs are made possible through the help of Edmonton teachers and performers who devote much time in their preparation.

For help in preparing students for the history examinations, records and scores illustrating the various periods of musical history may be borrowed by students, and teachers, from the Cultural Activities Branch, Legislative Building, Edmonton.

The examination system, as outlined above, is dedicated to the establishment and maintaining of the highest standards of music examinations in Alberta as well as assisting those of exceptional ability to pursue advanced training. This the University of Alberta, operating through the Western Board of Music, has been doing and will continue to do.

Further information about the syllabus, awards list, fees or any others points of interest may be had by writing to The Western Board of Music, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

Coste House Sets the Pace

(Continued from Page 9)

corder and chamber music. There is also a Mozart society and, for contrast and to keep husbands busy, a model trainmen's club in the attic.

Saturdays up to four o'clock are devoted to children. After that hour, Coste House members are liable to go social. Members' children participate in painting, modelling, puppetry, creative dance and drama and allied activities. In addition, through the week, children's art—starting with the four-year-old—keeps instructors busy each morning while after-school classes in child art are held in co-operation with Home and School in thirteen suburban communities.

As an active worker in adult education, Coste House caters each week to approximately 200 hobbyists who take up painting, weaving, ceramics and creative writing which explains why it is estimated that each year around 65,000 people pass through the doors of this picturesque old mansion in the heart of Calgary's Mount Royal.

Beginnings and Growth

Coste House founders are fond of explaining that, had there been one sound business head associated with them at the inception, Calgary's Allied Arts Centre would never have come into being inasmuch as it was launched without the proverbial shoestring. Today the institution has a full time staff of nine men and women with eight part-time instructors, over 2,000 members in addition to forty-two affiliated societies and a donor list of close to one hundred and fifty. The initial budget eleven years ago called for the raising of \$4,000. At the close

of the present fiscal year, on March 31, it can be anticipated that the Arts Council will have spent close to \$80,000 and, what is more important, will have matched the expenditures with the same amount in revenues.

Leather in Handicrafts

(Continued from Page 5)

complished by using antique finishes; brown cream shoe polishes are also used extensively. The best results are with the antiques, as the degrees of darkening can be controlled much better. And there is the filigree method which is the complete cutting out of the background, and either leaving it as is, or lining the filigreed part with a colored leather. Lastly, the background can be left natural, with only the background tools used for effect and this can be one of the most beautiful of all.

Yesteryear we found leather priced along with the precious metals and stones of the ancient Egyptians.

Today we find it still, a thing of great value, the beauty of which still shines with the precious metals and stones of our decade.

Regional Festival

(Continued from Page 6)

people coming together can admire and observe and learn from one another's plays and performances and then go back to their communities to give that community better theatre as a result of their experience at the festival.

I fear there was not nearly enough either to admire or learn from at this festival, neither in the productions themselves nor in the adjudicator's comments.

RECREATION LEADERSHIP SCHOOL 1958

WHEN

July 7 to August 2.

WHAT

Red Deer Composite High School, Red Deer, Alberta.

WHO

Who may attend: Every community in Alberta has the opportunity to nominate candidates who must be: (1) Nominated by the local recreation authority or by a responsible organization; (2) physically fit; (3) prepared to provide leadership service in their community; (4) at least 17 years of age prior to July 1, 1958.

WHERE

First Year: Leadership Techniques. Games, Rhythmics, Community Singing, Dance (Round and Square) First Aid, Recreation Methods, *Gymnastics, *Quick Crafts, *Team Sports, *Creative Drama, *Keep Fit, *Sports Administration.

Second Year: Social Recreation, Rhythmics, Community Singing, Individual Sports, Social Dance, Recreation Workshop, *Gymnastics, *Quick Crafts, *Swimming (Instructors' Course), *Creative Drama, *Keep Fit, *Sports Officiating.

*Courses in which options are offered.

Special: Craft Instructors' Course. Certified recreation leaders and adults sponsored by local recreation authorities or craft organizations, July 9 - 19. \$15 to cover board, room and tuition (materials extra.)

Write for details on course content to:

MISS E. McFARLAND

Supervisor

COMMUNITY RECREATION BUREAU,

Cultural Activities Branch,

Department of Economic Affairs,

Legislative Building, Edmonton.

MISS RUTH I. MCKENZIE,
DOCUMENTATION OFFICER,
DEPT. OF CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

